## WALKER COUNTY

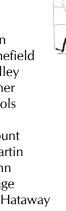
#### Honorable James C. Brotherton

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### PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Health Issues

Executive Director: Donna Kilgore

- 2. Programs and presentations to address at-risk behaviors among youth.
- 3. Parent Education

### **Issues**

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county.

**Health -** Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

#### Collaborate with local health clinics to provide information and assistance

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Assist community Foundation with free clinic project
- Provide parent information to health clinics

#### Increase learning in 12-15yr old group regarding STD's and HIV

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Invite AIDS outreach for presentations in small groups
- Support expansion of awareness programs

#### Health figure in school

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Support expansion of school nurse programs
- Support expansion of nutrition education
- Provide parent information

**Safety** - Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

#### Expansion of programs to address at-risk behaviors including prevention of alcohol, drugs and school violence

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Form and support youth council to help in assessment of needs of all children/youth
- Seek resources and funding to expand and enhance existing programs

#### Expansion of School Resource Officers in the county

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek resources and funding opportunities
- Seek to enhance formalized community partnerships

# Mentoring children/youth with law enforcement and public safety figures

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek to enhance formalized community partnerships
- Seek resources and funding opportunities

#### Education - Children

learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

#### **Reduce Dropout Rates**

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Recruit members from businesses to explore and demonstrate careers
- Support the use of "The Choices" program within the county
- Collaborate with community partners on "Ground Hog Job Shadow Day"

#### Early identification of students experiencing academic and behavioral difficulties

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support resources to assist in identifying academic and behavioral difficulties
- Collaborative trainings

#### Life Coping Skills

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support life skill programs with all children and youth in Walker County
- Seek funding resources to promote and support life skill programs

## Early Care and Education - Children

(0-5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to

succeed.

Provide private and faithbased daycare training and resource information

Policy Council Action Steps:

packets for the public

- Classes by CPC members
- Coordinate with agencies providing trainings

#### Parenting class for all ages

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Parenting classes offered at collaborating CPC agencies
- Provide information/resources for parents
- Place information at local service agencies

#### Affordable daycare

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Work with community to help identify assistance with daycare cost
- Provide resource information to parents

#### Reading Enrichment

Policy Council Action Steps:

 Collaboration with local libraries to assist with reading programs

### **Economic Security**

- Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

#### **Transportation**

Policy Council Action Steps:

 Seek and support funding for expansion of public transportation

#### Job Training

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Promote and support the expansion of career training opportunities for youth
- Collaborate with local businesses on needed skills training
- Provide resource information to youth and parents

## After school or summer youth programs for all youth

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Seek resources to provide funding for after school programs
- Provide resource information to parents on after school programs
- Collaborate with community partners to expand and enhance existing programs

## Parent Involvement and Skills - Parents and

guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

## Resource information to parents

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Collaborate with local media outlets
- Encourage parent participation with council projects
- Provide resource information to parents

## Community sponsored family oriented activities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Involve community on education awareness programs
- Involve parents to assess needs and available resources within their community

#### Increase collaboration between private, public and faith-based entities

Policy Council Action Steps:

- Collaborate with partners to provide informational seminars
- Formalize collaborative partnerships

### Policy Recommendation

- 1. Updating resource directory and making it client friendly.
- 2. More funding in all areas for children services. Longer contract periods for agencies.
- 3. Better communication between local and state agencies
- 4. Mandatory drug testing laws for adults who enter system through DHR and Juvenile Court.
- 5. Funding to sustain parenting programs.
- 6. Funds and resources for public transportation
- 7. Raise the legal age for a teenager to work
- 8. Increase funding for educational opportunities for individuals who have limited resources
- 9. Priority funding for children and families
- 10. Restrict actions of lobbyists
- 11. Study of at-risk youth to identify by each county
- 12. Legislature to consider increased funding for Children's Policy Councils
- 13. Continue to actively support local CPC's via attendance at local CPC meetings, trainings, and conferences

## Accomplishments

- 1. Worked on memorandums of understanding between agencies
- 2. Parent Resource Directory Resource Cards
- 3. Building website
- 4. Submitted UPS grant

#### Additional Walker County Children's Policy Council Members:

Bruce LeVan	Amy Sedis	Angie James
Charla Gwin	Susan Swartz	Amberly Clark
Margaret Guthrie	Linda Burns	